

Dear Jim,

9/25/84

You've made a great effort and everyone is indebted to you for it.

But you still have absolutely refused to learn how to fight! It is not that you cannot, it is that you will not. As though it is your way of avoiding having learned and practised the right way in the past.

If there is any one thing I've tried to impress upon you over the years most of all, it is that the weak never survive the strong if the weak are content to defend. Only by vigorous initiatives can the weak survive the more powerful, in this case the most powerful.

Where are the questions they cannot answer? Like the one I asked Lynch at the outset and Glasser when I got his address? Why the rush with Congress about to end? Why not explore and satisfy critics, or learn that the critics are correct?

Why did you never once ask, suppose you are wrong?

And bracket this with what under any circumstances is a major omission, the incitation to domestic excesses, a step toward the police state.

You've made a very good record, and that is important, for the immediate future and for history. But you never once, any of you with all that fine legal argument, put the ACLU on the defensive.

It was all like a college debate.

No passion (save for Conyers), not the deep feeling required for comprehension by other than academicians. Nothing at all that is for popular consumption.

I do wish you could open your mind, and forget that you ever went to college, that great corrupter of minds it is to open and expand. You simply defeat yourself, time after time, and I'm very, very sorry. I could show you so many illustrations in our litigation. Please try, for the better good you can do and for yourself. You can have so much more to show for the same effort!

The oped page submission to the Times has little chance and was too hasty, but at the least someone there will probably read it and I'm sending some copies around. Not to the ACLU.

I'm a little better than yesterday and I, after three weeks of uncomfortable respiratory troubles, without any fever, has agreed to go to the doctor, so I'll get this and the other things in today's mail. I got Glasser's letter, thanks, and I'm enclosing a suggestion for writing him.

Best,

